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DE RUEHSB #0664/01 2041503
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1726
INFO RUEHLS/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE 2245
RUEHTO/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE 0944
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0308
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0591
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 5309
RUEHFT/AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY 0180
RUEHJO/AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY 0512

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 000664

SIPDIS

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H FOR MAYA YAMAZAKI, ANDREW MACDERMOITT AND
RM/F/DFS/FO/AA/CAA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OREP](#) [MGT](#) [ASEC](#) [AFIN](#) [MZ](#) [ZA](#) [UK](#) [SF](#) [GM](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR STAFFDEL PHELAN (JULY 29 -
AUGUST 1)

REF: STATE 99302

¶1. Embassy Harare grants country clearance and warmly welcomes the visit of Mr. Michael Phelan and Mr. Marik String of the minority staff of the Senate Foreign Relations committee (sfrc) to conduct a field-based study that will examine assistance funded by the State Department, Defense Department, USAID, and other agencies.

¶2. The Embassy has confirmed your reservation for 3 nights at Harare's Meikles hotel (corner of Jason Moyo and Third Street in downtown Harare; tel 263-4-707-721; fax 263-4-707-753). Non-smoking rooms are available upon request. The cost of the room is USD \$171.36 (government rate) per night which includes breakfast and tourist levy. Payment for hotel must be made in foreign currency.

¶3. Based on the current economic situation in the country, using a credit card could significantly increase your costs. Hotel payment must be made in U.S. cash or travelers checks. U.S. travelers checks are difficult to use except to pay hotel bills. Personal checks may be cashed at the Embassy cashier only for local currency and at the official exchange rate. Personal checks cannot be cashed at the Embassy for U.S. currency. Post recommends that travelers bring enough U.S. currency to cover anticipated needs in Zimbabwe.

¶4. Control Officer for the visit will be Political officer Glenn Warren who can be reached during work hours at 263-3-250-593 extension 208; after hours at 263-4-250-595; home at 263-4-494-031; and cell phone at 263-011-201-648; or via email at WarrenGS@state.gov. An Embassy driver will meet and assist at the airport.

¶5. Post strongly urges leaving Embassy Harare's telephone number with family and business associates before departing for Zimbabwe so that you can be quickly located in the event of an emergency. The Embassy telephone number is 263-4-250-593. Marine Security Guard Post extension is ¶260.

¶6. Several recent visitors transiting Johannesburg to Harare have had items stolen from their luggage at Johannesburg International Airport. Please ensure that your luggage is locked and hand-carry valuable items.

¶7. Malaria is prevalent throughout Zimbabwe, except in

Harare. We strongly recommend the use of malaria prophylaxes and adjunctive measures when traveling outside of Harare.

¶18. The exchange rate is currently \$111,000 Zim dollars to US\$1, however this rate is subject to frequent change.

¶19. There is a non-waivable USD 30.00 per person departure tax, which is included in the cost of the air ticket.

(Note: the Zimbabwean Government recently began levying a USD 30.00 fee for US visitors in Zimbabwe, but airport authorities have been instructed to waive this fee for travelers with US diplomatic and official passports. End note.)

¶10. Harare is designated a high crime post by the Department of State. The Regional Security Officer (RSO) is required to brief all TDY visitors staying more than one week as soon as possible after their arrival at post. While Harare is a clean and pleasant city, street crime is a serious problem, particularly in tourist areas. Visitors have found it safer not to carry valuables, but rather to store them in hotel safety deposit boxes or safe rooms. Walking alone or at night downtown is not recommended as attacks have taken place on public streets and parks. The RSO recommends leaving all important documents (passports, plane tickets, etc.) in a hotel safe, and not wearing any jewelry on the street. In addition, visitors should avoid hanging a camera around their necks, carrying a protruding wallet, and carry or showing large amounts of money in public. We urge visitors to use the same security precautions they would exercise in any urban area. Avoid any large gatherings, demonstrations or political rallies

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in both rural and urban areas. Occupied farms are also to be avoided at all times.

¶11. Road safety/automobile travel: While traveling in vehicles, doors should be kept locked and windows rolled up. Car-jackings are common in Harare, and diplomatic vehicles and personnel are not immune to these attacks by armed thieves. Highway bandits are active on roads leading to border areas.

¶12. As per Secstate 286036, TDYers must coordinate the transport of official unclassified portable computers that will be used within the USG controlled access facilities with the RSO and ISSO.

DHANANI